

Claim 1 defines a method of generating an insurance quote for an applicant for a loan from a lender to purchase an item. The method includes the steps of determining the acceptability of the loan and obtaining data from a lender's database. At least a portion of the database is provided to the lender by the applicant in connection with obtaining a loan from the lender. Thereafter, an insurance risk is automatically underwritten for the item intended to be purchased using the loan and the insurance quote is generated utilizing the data obtained from the lender's database. The process does not require any affirmative action by the applicant beyond the preparation of a loan application. The applicant makes no specific request for an insurance quote and does not provide an application for insurance. The applicant is advised of the acceptability of the loan contemporaneously with the insurance quote if the loan has been accepted.

As hereinafter described, nothing in any of the cited references shows or suggests a method of generating an insurance quote wherein the insurance quote is provided to the applicant contemporaneously with a favorable decision on a loan application. Further, nothing in any of the cited references shows or suggests a method for a generating an insurance quote that utilizes data obtained from a lender's database to automatically generate the quote. (underlining added)

The Mitcham '315 patent is directed to a data processing system for automatically associating a user signature with a document. More specifically, the data processing system incorporates a touch screen and a pointing device. A user supplies information utilizing the touch screen and the pointing device to create documents such as an insurance agreement that may be printed or kept as stored electronic document. It is contemplated that by using the data processing system disclosed in the '315 patent, a user may independent create a binding document, such as an insurance agreement, without the need for interacting with the representative of the party, such as a representative insurance company.

The Examiner suggests that Mitcham teaches a method of generating an insurance quote for an individual that comprises the steps of obtaining data from an applicant for insurance and automatically underwriting an insurance risk for an item using the data obtained from the applicant. However, these steps are in direct contradiction to the steps defined in independent claim 1. Claim 1 does not require the applicant to apply for insurance. (underlining added) In fact, the purpose of applicant's claimed invention is to provide an insurance quote to the applicant without the applicant requesting the insurance quote or filling out an application for insurance. More specifically, the methodology defined in independent claim 1 is a passive process wherein the underwriting of an insurance risk for an item is done automatically for the item intended to be purchased using a loan. The insurance quote is generated utilizing the data obtained from the lender's database, not from an application for insurance as provided for in the Mitcham '315 patent.

The Jones et al., '462 patent cannot cure the deficiencies of the Mitcham '315 patent. More specifically, the Jones '462 patent is directed to a method and apparatus for improving real time automatic determination of the approval status of a potential borrower of a loan. As the Examiner correctly points out, the '462 patent does suggest advising various lead organizations, such as insurance companies, that a potential borrower is considering obtaining a loan to purchase an item. However, the method disclosed in the '462 patent does not suggest any action other than the referral of the potential borrower to the insurance companies. (underlining added) Consequently, Jones still requires an insurance company to approach the applicant and for the applicant to fill out an application requesting insurance. Again, this teaches away from the methodology defined in independent claim 1. As the Examiner points out, the method disclosed in Jones merely provides a system wherein "...data regarding the potential borrower [is provided] to an insurance company to permit follow up with the potential borrower."

In view of the fact that neither of the cited references shows or suggests a method for generating an insurance quote that generates the insurance quote utilizing data obtained from a lender's database or that contemporaneously advises the applicant of the acceptability of the loan

along with such insurance quote, it is believed that independent claim 1 defines over the cited references. Claims 2-10 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim and further define a method of generating an insurance quote not shown or suggested in the art. It is believed that claims 2-10 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Referring to claim 11, a method is provided for generating an insurance quote for an applicant for a loan. Similar to claim 1, claim 11 requires the steps of determining the acceptability of a loan and automatically underwriting an insurance risk for the item intended to be purchased with the loan proceeds, using the data obtained from the lender's database. Claim 11 further requires that the underwriting occur for a plurality of insurance companies. Thereafter, one of the plurality of insurance companies is selected and an insurance quote is generated for the applicant from the selected insurance company. Finally, the insurance quote is provided to the applicant with the determination of the acceptability of the loan if the loan has been accepted.

As heretofore described with respect to independent claim 1, neither of the cited references shows or suggests a method of generating an insurance quote that includes the step of automatically underwriting an insurance risk of an item that is intended to be purchased using the loan using data obtained from a lender's database. Such a step is entirely absent from the cited references and there is no teaching or suggestion in either reference to provide such claimed methodology. The Mitcham '315 patent specifically requires the applicant to request an insurance quote and to enter information to apply for such a quote. See, Mitcham, U.S. Patent No. 5,537,315, Column 5, line 1 – Column 6, line 14. In other words, the process disclosed in the '315 patent requires a specific request by an applicant for an insurance quote. The Jones et al., '462 patent merely provides a methodology wherein data regarding a potential borrower is afforded to lead organizations, such as insurance providers, to permit follow up by those lead organizations with the potential borrower. Hence, neither reference shows or suggests tying together the information to generate an insurance quote with the obtaining of data provided to the lender by the applicant in order to obtain the loan, much less the selection of one of a

plurality of insurance companies to generate the quote. Such a methodology is entirely absent from the cited references. As such, it is believed that independent claim 11 defines over the cited references and passage to allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-19 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 11 and further define a method of generating an insurance quote not shown or suggested in the prior art. Applicant believes that claims 12-19 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

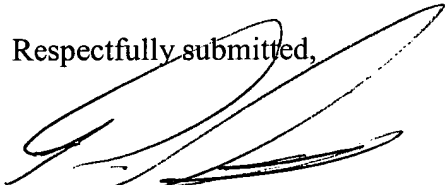
Referring to claim 20, a method is provided for generating an insurance quote for an applicant for a loan from a lender wherein the loan is intended to fund the purchase of an item. The method includes the steps of determining the acceptability of the loan and requesting permission from the applicant to provide the insurance quote for the item. A first portion of data is obtained from a lender's database in response to permission to provide the insurance quote from the applicant. The first portion of data is provided to the lender by the applicant in order to obtain the loan. Automatically, it is determined if additional data is needed to underwrite an insurance risk for the item, and if so, such information is obtained. Thereafter, the insurance risk is automatically underwritten for a plurality of insurance companies and one of the plurality of insurance companies is selected. The insurance quote from the selected insurance company and a determination of the acceptability of the loan are provided to the applicant if the loan has been accepted. In addition, an additional insurance quote may be provided to the applicant if requested.

As described with respect to claims 1 and 11, nothing in the cited references show or suggest tying the generation of an insurance quote to the use of information provided to a lender by an applicant in order to obtain a loan. Such a methodology is entirely absent from the cited references. Hence, it is believed that independent claim 20 defines over the cited references and passage to allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-24 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 20 and further define a method not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that claims 21-24 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Applicant believes that the present application with claims 1-24 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter C. Stomma  
Registration No. 36,020

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Boyle Fredrickson Newholm Stein & Gratz, S.C.  
250 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1030  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4232  
Telephone: (414) 225-9755  
Facsimile: (414) 225-9753  
Attorney Docket No. 289.001  
Customer No. 23,598